Poverty in the tribal and backward areas of Maharashtra

*340. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extreme poverty exists in the tribal and backward areas of Maharashtra and other parts of the country, where people do not get even two square meals a day;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken and propose to take to remove poverty from tribal and backward areas of Maharashtra and other parts of the country within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) and (b) The latest estimates of percentage of people below poverty line are indicated below:—

Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line (1993-94)

	Maharashtra			All India		
	Rurgl	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
Tribal Population	50.58	61.06	*	5194	4114	*
Total Population	37.93	35.15	36.86	37.27	32.36	35.97

* Combined figures not computed due to constraints of data.

The poverty ratios for tribal population in the country are higher than the general poverty ratios both for the State of Maharashtra and All-India.

(c) The centrally schemes for poverty eradication implemented in the country comprise of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Urban Wage Employment (SUWE), the Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP). These Schemes provide for specific coverage of Scheduled Tribes.

The Centrally Sponsored Schemes for poverty eradication would be continued in the Ninth Five Year Plan. They would, however, be redesigned and reoriented to make them more effective instruments of poverty alleviation. In order to improve the efficacy of the schemes, the emphasis would be on higher levels of investment per family, encouragement to activities under family credit plan and promotion of group projects.

In addition to the above programmes, a number of schemes exclusively for the educational and economic development of the Scheduled Tribes are implemented either as Centrally Sponsored or Central Sector Schemes under the umbrella of Tribal Sub Plan.